STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented)

4. An oil-in-water microemulsion comprising:

   a) an oil phase, said oil phase comprising ≤ 11.8% by weight of the microemulsion, and comprising low volatility constituents;

   b) an aqueous phase comprising:

      i) one or more polyethoxylated oil-in-water emulsifiers;

      ii) one or more polypropoxylated oil-in-water emulsifiers; and/or

      iii) one or more polyethoxylated and polypropoxylated oil-in-water emulsifiers;

   c) one or more emulsifiers to a total emulsifier content of less than 20% by weight of the microemulsion;

   wherein said microemulsion is transparent or translucent.

Claim 5 (previously presented)

5. The microemulsion according to claim 4, which comprises one or more substances having cosmetic or dermatological activity.

Claim 6 (previously presented)

6. The microemulsion according to claim 4, which comprises substances soluble or dispersible in water.

Claim 7 (previously presented)

7. A process for preparing a microemulsion according to claim 4, said process comprising:

   a) mixing constituents of the oil phase, constituents of the aqueous phase, and optionally one or more water-in-oil emulsifiers to form a first mixture;

   b) adding one or more oil-in-water emulsifiers to said first mixture to form a second mixture;

c) varying at least one parameter so that the second mixture passes through a phase inversion region between water-in-oil microemulsions and oil-in-water microemulsions and is brought into a phase inversion region where the second mixture exists as an oil-in-water microemulsion, wherein the parameter is selected from the group consisting of temperature and concentration of at least one of the emulsifiers, the oil phase or the aqueous phase.

Claim 8 (previously presented)

8. A process for preparing a microemulsion according to claim 4, said process comprising:

a) mixing constituents of the oil phase, constituents of the aqueous phase, one or more oil-in-water emulsifiers, and optionally one or more water-in-oil emulsifiers to form a mixture;

b) forming an oil-in-water emulsion by bringing said mixture to a temperature which is:

i) a temperature at which components soluble in the oil phase dissolve or at least melt;

ii) a temperature which corresponds at least to a melting point of the oil phase component having the highest melting point of those components not in a dissolved state; and

iii) a temperature which is below a phase inversion temperature range of the mixture; and

c) cooling said oil-in-water emulsion to room temperature to form an oil-in-water microemulsion.